

We claim:

1. In a coupling mechanism for a work vehicle, the coupling mechanism having a frame for mounting to the work vehicle, the frame having a cross member and left and right side members projecting from opposite ends of the cross member, and having an upper implement coupling hook mounted on the cross member, the improvement comprising:

a pair of attaching members, each mounted to a respective one of the side members, each attaching member comprising an elongated body, a first lower hook fixed to a first end of the body, and a second lower hook fixed to a second end of the body, the first lower hook having at least one dimensional feature which is larger than a corresponding dimensional feature of the second lower hook, each attaching member being selectively mountable in a corresponding one of the side members in a first orientation with the first lower hook in an operative position and being selectively mountable in a second orientation with the second lower hook in an operative position.

2. The coupling mechanism of claim 1, wherein:

a first longer portion of each attaching member projects from a lower end of the corresponding side member when the attaching member is mounted to the corresponding side member in said first orientation, and a second shorter portion of each attaching member projecting from a lower end of the corresponding side member when the attaching member is mounted to the corresponding side member in said second orientation.

3. The coupling mechanism of claim 1, wherein:

a plurality of mounting bores extend through each attaching member; and  
a plurality of coupling bores extend through each side member, a first group of the mounting bores being aligned with a first set of the coupling bores when the attaching member is in the first orientation, a second group of the mounting bores being aligned with a second set of the coupling bores when the attaching member is in the second orientation.

4. The coupling mechanism of claim 1, wherein:

the first and second lower hooks have prongs which project from opposite

sides of the elongated body.

5. The coupling mechanism of claim 1, wherein:

the first and second lower hooks have prongs which project from opposite sides of the elongated body and generally towards a plane which bisects a central portion of the elongated body.

6. The coupling mechanism of claim 1, further comprising:

a first and second upper hooks for selective mounting on the cross member, the first hook having a first shorter base for attaching to the cross member and a first prong projecting upwardly and away from a lower end of the first base, the second hook having a second longer base with an upper end for attaching to the cross member and a second prong projecting upwardly and away from a lower end of the second base, the first upper hook being mounted on the cross member when the attaching members are in their first orientations to provide a longer vertical spacing between the first upper hook and the first lower hooks, the second upper hook being mounted on the cross member when the attaching members are in their second orientations to provide a shorter vertical spacing between the second upper hook and the second lower hooks.

7. The coupling mechanism of claim 1, further comprising:

a first upper hook for selective mounting on the cross member, the first hook having a first base for attaching to the cross member and a first prong projecting upwardly and away from a lower end of the first base, the first upper hook defining an implement coupler receiving and engaging surface having a lower portion which is located at a vertical position which is above a lower surface of the cross member, the first upper hook being mounted on the cross member when the attaching members are in their first orientations to provide a first standard vertical spacing between the first upper hook and the first lower hooks.

8. The coupling mechanism of claim 7, further comprising:

a second upper hook for selective mounting on the cross member, the second hook having a second base for attaching to the cross member and a second prong projecting upwardly and away from a lower end of the second base, the second upper hook defining an implement coupler receiving and engaging surface

having a bottom portion which is located at a vertical position which is below a lower surface of the cross member, the second upper hook being mounted on the cross member when the attaching members are in their second orientations to provide a second standard vertical spacing between the second upper hook and the second lower hooks.